

on providing containerised service to customers have helped the Railways to lift more traffic and have increased the level of customer satisfaction.

(b) Railway freight rates are calculated on the basis of the classification assigned to the commodity in the Freight Structure and the distance of haul.

The average rate per quintal per kilometre is as under:-

	(In paise)
1989-90	3.25
1990-91	3.50 (Prov.)

(c) About 27,500 (in terms of four wheeler units) are proposed to be acquired, but this would depend on plan allocation. Increase would be much less, because of condemnation concurrently.

Tribals access to Firewood and Forest Produce

668. SHRISHIVSHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 439 on August 26, 1991 regarding tribals access to firewood and forest produce and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) All the state governments/UTs have been requested to furnish the requisite information. Information received from Andhra Pradesh, Arun-

achal Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Andaman & Nicobar Islands & Dadra & Nagar Haveli indicates that no traditional rights have been abolished to the detriment of tribals. Reply from other States/UTs is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indian Hockey team off loaded at Singapore Airport

669. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the members of the Indian Hockey Team on their way back from Auckland via Singapore were off loaded at the Singapore airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Air India authorities have failed to provide night stay facilities to the Indian team; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The team decided on their own not to board the flight since they wanted time to sort out the excess baggage problem.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Extinction of Gazelle and antelope in Ladakh

670. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rare Tibetan gazelle and antelope in Ladakh are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the black necked cranes are also migrating; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to preserve these rare species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Tibetan Gazelle and Tibetan antelope are amongst the most threatened species of wild animals in this country.

(b) The main reasons for decline in the population of these species are:

- (i) Denudation and destruction of the habitat.
- (ii) Poaching of the species for flesh and hide;

(c) The main breeding areas of Black-necked Crane are in China. Ladakh falls only in the peripheral zone of the habitat range of this species. During recent surveys of the species only very few blacknecked cranes have been sighted in Chusul and Hanle areas of Ladakh. The Indian Population of the species is considered highly endangered.

(d) The steps taken and proposed to be taken to preserve the species include:

- i) Providing total legal protection to the species under the Jammu & Kashmir wild Life (protection) Act.
- ii) Taking cooperation of army to safeguard against the poaching of these species.
- iii) Carrying out periodic status

surveys and collecting information about sighting of species;

iv) Setting up of national parks and sanctuaries in the region.

v) Providing central assistance to the State Government for development and management of the parks and the sanctuaries.

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

671. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant sanctioned and paid to the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the actual expenditure incurred by the Trust during these years;

(c) whether report of the working committee of the trust has been submitted to the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed by the Government on the shortcomings pointed out in the report?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) As part of the corpus fund of Rs. 5 crores an amount of Rs. 1 crore each was released in the following two years viz. 1988-89 and 1989-90.

(b) The actual expenditure incurred year-wise

1988-89	Rs. 48,57,769/-
1989-90	Rs. 66,52,863/-
1990-91	Rs. 93,54,240/-